

REMARKS

The above amendment and these remarks are responsive to the Office action of 6 Apr 2004 by Examiner Peter J. Smith.

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-8, 10-12, and 14-20 are in the case, none as yet allowed.

Specification

Applicants have amended the specification to update the related application status as requested by the Examiner, and to correct typographical and grammatical errors noted while reviewing the specification.

35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 2, 6, 9, 13, and 16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 as indefinite.

Applicants has amended claim 16 as suggested by the

Examiner and canceled claims 2, 6, 9, and 13.

35 U.S.C. 101

Claims 8 and 16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101.

Applicant has amended these claims as suggested by the Examiner.

35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1, 15, and 16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over Lloyd, U.S. Patent 6,460,041.

Lloyd relates to a browser-based database-access apparatus and method. As pointed out by the Examiner, Lloyd teaches executing an agent to read data from a database table at Col. 2, line 56 ff.

Applicant has amended claims 1, 15 and 16 to clarify the manner in which the agent accesses the relational database to populate the page display. Support for this

material is provided in the specification at pages 60-65.

Lloyd does not teach how the agent reads the data

Applicant requests that the rejection of claims 1, 15, and 16 over Lloyd, which does not teach applicant's agent, be withdrawn, and the claims allowed.

35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 2, 4, and 8-11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Lloyd in view of Lin et al. (hereinafter Lin), U.S. Patent 6,052,785.

Claim 2 has been canceled, and 4 depend from claim 1, which, along with claims 8-11, has been amended to clarify the manner in which the agent accesses the relational database to populate the page display as previously discussed with respect to Lloyd. Lin does not teach that manner.

Claim 3 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Lloyd.

Claim 3 depends from claim 1, and has been amended as

previously discussed.

Claim 5 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Lloyd in view of Johnson, et al. (hereinafter Johnson) U.S. Patent 6,023,683.

Claim 5 depends from claim 1, and has been amended as previously discussed with respect to Lloyd. Johnson relates to an electronic requisition catalog application including a relational database, but does not teach applicant's agent for accessing that table. Therefore, the combination of Lloyd and Johnson do not teach applicant's invention.

Claims 6 and 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Lloyd, in view of Johnson, and further in view of Lin. Also, Claims 12-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Lloyd, in view of Lin, and further in view of Johnson.

Applicant has canceled claim 6, and claim 7 depends from claims 1 and 5, which are distinguished from Lloyd and Johnson as previously described. Claims 12 and 14 depend from claim 8, which has been distinguished from Lloyd in view of Lin. Lin relates to a sourcing system, but like

Johnson and Lloyd, does not teach applicants agent for accessing the database, as that agent is described in claims 1 and 8.

Applicant requests that the rejections of claims under Lloyd, Johnson, and/or Lin be withdrawn.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicants urge that the above amendments be entered and the case passed to issue with claims 1, 3-5, 7-8, 10-12, and 14-20.

The Application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action by the Examiner is urged. Should differences remain, however, which do not place one/more of the remaining claims in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to phone the undersigned at the number provided below for the purpose of providing constructive assistance and suggestions in accordance with M.P.E.P. Sections 707.02(j) and 707.03 in order that allowable claims can be presented, thereby placing the Application in condition for allowance without further proceedings being

necessary.

Sincerely,

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By

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